

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

1 - 12 (Canceled)

13. (New) A method for operating a dishwasher comprising at least one washing container, a circulating pump which conveys washing fluid to at least one spray device for acting upon items to be cleaned, which are located in the washing container, and comprising a wash program at least composed of the partial program steps pre-wash (1), clean (2), intermediate rinse (3), clear rinse (4) and dry (5), the method comprising varying the pressure at which the washing liquid is conveyed from the circulating pump to the at least one spray device in order to remove food residues in small quantities by a pre-determined hydraulic abrasion capacity, e.g. spray pressure and spray quantity and carry them away from the dishwasher, thus ensuring that the filter remains functional in the remainder of the wash program.
14. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the speed and therefore the capacity of the circulating pump for conveying washing liquid can be varied.
15. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein in a first part section of the pre-wash process, the circulating pump is operated at about 30% to 60% of maximum capacity, in a second part section of the pre-wash process it is operated at about 50% to 100% of maximum capacity and in a third part section of the pre-wash process it is operated at about 30% to 60% of maximum capacity.
16. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the circulating pump is operated at least intermittently when the washing liquid used for a part program step (1, 2, 3, 4), especially the pre-wash process or the clear rinse process, is admitted into the dishwasher.
17. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the quantity of washing liquid introduced into the dishwasher for a part program step (1, 2, 3, 4), especially the

pre-wash process or the clear rinse process, is only a part of the total washing liquid which can be received by the dishwasher.

18. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the quantity of washing liquid used for a part program step (1, 2, 3, 4), especially the pre-wash process or the clear rinse process, is varied during the relevant part program step (1, 2, 3, 4).
19. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the quantity of washing liquid present in the dishwasher for a part program step (1, 2, 3, 4), especially the pre-wash process or the clear rinse process, in a first part section of the relevant part program step (1, 2, 3, 4) is between about 30% and 60% of the total washing liquid which can be received by the dishwasher, in a second part section of the relevant part program step (1, 2, 3, 4) the quantity of washing liquid present in the dishwasher is between about 50% and 100% of the total washing liquid which can be received by the dishwasher, and in a third part section of the relevant part program step (1, 2, 3, 4) the quantity of washing liquid present in the dishwasher is between about 30% and 60% of the total washing liquid which can be received by the dishwasher.
20. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein a lye pump for pumping away washing liquid from the dishwasher is operated at least intermittently during a part program step (1, 2, 3, 4), especially during the pre-rinse process.
21. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein a lye pump and a circulating pump are operated alternately, especially after the end region of pumping away the washing solution from the washing container by the lye pump, in order to free the filter from food residues.
22. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein after each part program step (1, 2, 3, 4) using washing liquid, a substantially complete change of washing liquid is undertaken.

23. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the washing liquid used for a part program step (1, 2, 3, 4), especially the pre-wash process, is preferably completely exchanged at least once during the part program step (1, 2, 3, 4).
24. (New) A dishwasher comprising at least one washing container, a circulating pump which conveys washing fluid to at least one spray device for acting upon items to be cleaned, which are located in the washing container, and means for executing a wash program at least composed of the partial program steps pre-wash (1), clean (2), intermediate rinse (3), clear rinse (4) and dry (5), the dishwasher being operable to vary the pressure at which the washing liquid is conveyed from the circulating pump to the at least one spray device in order to remove food residues in small quantities by a pre-determined hydraulic abrasion capacity, e.g. spray pressure and spray quantity and carry them away from the dishwasher, thus ensuring that the filter remains functional in the remainder of the wash program.